

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
PANAMA BUREAU  
DRAWER 927  
APO MIAMI 34004

7 December 1985  
MPA-5047

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau -- November 1985

I. GENERAL

STAT A ground breaking of sorts for the three additional ROSET's occurred in November. In mid-month UAI contractors arrived to survey the sites for the three antennas. In addition, [redacted] the head of the team, sought bids from four Panamanian firms for the concrete work on the slabs. The projected date for having the new antennas operational is late February or early March. In another ROSET technical development, an ESI contractor arrived to begin the installation of modification kits for the closed loop cooling of drive motors of the two existing antennas. Problems developed with the mounting hardware, however, and the modification is not likely to be finished until after the first of the year.

STAT The long awaited visit by a PMCD officer [redacted] resulted in a review of the local technical and administrative positions, the bureau chief and deputy chief positions, and the proposed chief editor position.  
STAT [redacted] will review his findings with Headquarters components before final decisions are rendered.

-2-

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

In November the bureau's focus of attention shifted to the south, where two major disasters — one caused by man, the other by nature — took place in Colombia.

Although the Colombian Security Council tightened security around military garrisons and government offices in October, some 50 guerrillas of the 19 April Movement, M-19, were able to take over the Palace of Justice in Bogota on 6 November. Hundreds of government officials and workers were trapped in the building. Panama Bureau remained open overnight to report on the 30 hours of intense combat that ensued, after which government forces recovered control of the building. In the fighting, 89 persons lost their lives, including the president and eight other magistrates of the Colombian Supreme Court. The incident, which dealt a devastating blow to the Colombian legal system, also cast further doubt on the chances for success of the new "Peace, Dialogue, and Verification Commission" that was sworn in by President Belisario Betancur in October. The commission was tasked with bringing the government and guerrillas to terms that could serve as a framework for peace in Colombia.

Colombia had hardly recovered from the shock of this incident when a week later volcanic activity in the Nevado del Ruiz volcano in Tolima Department melted the icecap at the tip of the volcano. It triggered a massive mudslide that buried the town of Armero, killing more than 20,000 persons. Video recordings of Colombian television reports on the two tragedies were forwarded to Headquarters via DHL courier.

In Panama, the month began with the anti-government campaign still in full swing. Opposition papers reported that Panamanian strongman General Manuel Noriega was suffering from severe stress and had sought medical treatment abroad. Students and other marchers in the 3 and 4 November Independence and Flag Day parades chanted anti-government slogans and traded insults with pro-government demonstrators on the sidewalks; and a relative of the slain Dr. Hugo Spadafora chained herself to the U.S. Embassy gate to demand that the United States pressure the Panamanian Government into conducting an investigation into Spadafora's recent assassination. Political activity appears to be on the wane, however, as the local populace seemingly has turned attention to the upcoming year-end holidays.

Visible signs of strife in Central America also seemed to be on the decline in November. Reports of cross-border attacks between Nicaraguan soldiers and Honduran troops or Costa Rican civil guardsmen were few. This month's reports focused instead on violations of airspace and territorial waters, and only 1 casualty was reported.

Both Guatemala and Honduras held peaceful presidential

-3-

elections in November. The bureau kept open watches on local transmitters from the opening of the polls until the victory speeches 3 to 4 days after the elections. Guatemala is scheduled for a runoff election on 8 December, but in Honduras a last-minute decision by the National Electoral Tribunal on vote-counting procedures allowed the incumbent Liberal Party to obtain the right to remain in power through January 1990.

Cuba was also relatively quiet in November, as the nation braced for the onslaught of Hurricane Kate and continued preparations for the Third Communist Party of Cuba Congress scheduled for February 1986. Elsewhere in the Caribbean, Haitian President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier ousted 7 cabinet ministers on 6 November and students and workers participated in anti-government demonstrations on 27 and 28 November. Four persons were killed and 14 seriously injured in these demonstrations.

#### B. Communications

The bureau's Mode V AUTODIN communications routed via the Panama Automated Relay (PAR) experienced only minimal disruptions during the month. DCA headquarters responded to a bureau Unsatisfactory Service Report against PAR's performance in September by saying that they were unable to involve themselves in problems between a tributary and its relay — an answer that underscores the bureaucratic can of worms faced by the bureau in previous attempts at solving local communications problems.

On a brighter note, work is proceeding on the MUX plan, the long delayed U.S. Army communications project that would eliminate PAR and rehome all Panama AUTODIN subscribers to Fort Detrick ASC. During the month, several of PAR's tributaries were activated into the MUX Plan and by month's end PAR had only two customers still connected — Panama Bureau being one. On 25 November an Army team arrived at the bureau to begin installation and testing of the bureau's 150-baud Mode I "MUX" circuit. The Army hopes to have the bureau's MUX circuit activated within the next month or two at which time PAR would be deactivated — mercifully forever.

Finally, we began gathering information on a second microwave communications system that would allow us to circumvent the historically troubled local Army telecommunications unit and pass virtually all of the bureau communications via the U.S. Embassy in Panama City. In this connection, we are pursuing the possibility of acquiring an embassy satellite communications circuit sometime in late 1986 to pass unclassified bureau traffic.

Bureau communicators have achieved good results in quality control efforts as exemplified by a recent Headquarters notification that the bureau traffic resulted in only two MIDAS rejects in November, the lowest number of MIDAS errors ever documented.

C. Lateral Services

The bureau provided J-3, USSOUTHCOM, with two recordings on an interview that Ines Guadalupe Duarte, the Salvadoran President's daughter, reportedly granted to the FMLN rebels during her 44-day captivity. The first recording was the interview as broadcast by Radio Farabundo Marti; the second was the interview as broadcast by Radio Venceremos.

At the request of the American Embassy in Managua, the bureau refiled to the American Embassy in Rome, for the information of the embassy in the Vatican, the text of an interview by Nicaraguan Interior Minister Borge which has appeared in Mexico City EXCELSIOR.

D. Technical

The bureau procured locally one Sony Video Monitor, Model PVM-400, Serial No. 10792. Unit Price: \$500.00.

The following accountable property was received from Paragua Bureau:

One VCR Panasonic, Model NV 260 Bi-Norma PAL-M NISC Automatic 110/220 with remote control, Serial No F5HH06038. Unit Price \$1,111.11.

One TV Monitor Philips 14" Bi-Norma, PAL-M/PAL-N Color with remote control Model 14 CT64D1/55S, Serial No U0510 000743. Unit Price: \$483.33.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

Deputy Chief [redacted] received a promotion to GS-14 and senior editor [redacted] received a QSI, for her excellent handling of the editorial TDY training program.

PSI's effective 24 November 1985 were given Monitor Supervisor [redacted] (from FBN-11/9 to FBN-11/10): Spanish Monitors [redacted] (from FBN-9/4 to FBN-9/5); [redacted] (from FBN-8/1 to FBN-8/2), [redacted] (from FBN-7/1 to FBN-7/2) [redacted] (from FBN-8/1 to FBN-8/2); and Electronics Technicians [redacted] (from FBN-9/5 to FBN-9/6), [redacted] (from FBN-9/6 to FBN-9/7) [redacted] (from FBN-9/9 to FBN-9/19), and [redacted] [redacted] (from FBN-9/5 to FBN-9/6).

The first steps were taken for obtaining diplomatic passports for bureau staff personnel and dependents. Processing of applications for the [redacted] families began on 7 November. Known and possible TDY's are behind the reasoning in starting with these three. The applications for the other staff employees and dependents will follow the schedule laid out in Department of State guidance.

-5-

## B. Miscellaneous

STAT The bureau has begun receiving checks made out to the new  
 STAT imprest fund custodian, [redacted] in this  
 capacity; [redacted] is the newly designated alternate custodian. We  
 are still awaiting Headquarters approval for increasing the imprest fun  
 from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Beginning in November, the bureau opened a credit account  
 with DHL courier service, Use of the account lowers the cost of the  
 service as it eliminates some of the handling charges. The driving force  
 is the need by the bureau for an increased use of DHL for the shipment of  
 videocassettes to Washington. In addition we are using the service to  
 send vouchers to B&F in the hope of speeding the turn-around time for  
 vouchers and checks.

## IV. VISITS

STAT [redacted] the Special Assistant to the Director, FBIS, visited the  
 bureau 13 and 14 November for familiarization with the bureau ROSET  
 operation. While here, he met with the ambassador and DCM and an embassy  
 political officer.

STAT Regional Engineer [redacted] visited the bureau 13 through 15  
 November for a periodic inspection. The main focus of his concern was the  
 bureau communications system and the possibilities for improving it.

STAT PMCD officer [redacted] assessed various local and staff positions  
 during his 19-21 November TDY.

STAT UAI contractors [redacted] were at the bureau on  
 STAT 13 and 14 November to begin preparations for the installation of three  
 additional ROSET's. On 24 November, ESI contractor [redacted] arrived to  
 begin installation of modification kits on the two existing ROSET's.

STAT TDY editor [redacted] concluded the three-month training program  
 on 29 November and departed Panama on 2 December.

STAT Five FBIS staffers [redacted]  
 STAT [redacted] toured the U.S. Southern Command J-2 Intelligence Watch Office  
 Theatre Intelligence Center at Quarry Heights on 19 November and received  
 a briefing by an Air Force watch officer.

STAT [redacted]  
 Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

Attachment:  
 Production Report

## Panama Bureau Production Report for November 1985

## I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:         | 571600 |
| TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:     | 18850  |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH: | 1478   |

|  | BROAD-<br>CASTS  | PRESS<br>AGENCIES | PUBLI-<br>CATIONS |
|--|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:<br>(minutes or issues per week) | 10735.00<br>min. | 42570.00<br>min.  | 212.00<br>issues  |

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:  
(publishable words per month)

## ARGENTINA

|                                   |  |      |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|------|--|
| Buenos Aires REUTER in<br>Spanish |  | 1990 |  |
| Buenos Aires REUTER in<br>English |  | 360  |  |

## CLANDESTINES

|  |       |  |  |
|--|-------|--|--|
| Clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti in<br>Spanish to El Salvador | 9860  |  |  |
| Clandestine Radio Venceremos in<br>Spanish to El Salvador      | 25130 |  |  |

## COLOMBIA

|   |       |      |      |
|---|-------|------|------|
| Bogota Cadena Radial Super in<br>Spanish      | 2230  |      |      |
| Bogota Domestic Service in<br>Spanish         | 200   |      |      |
| Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in<br>Spanish | 10090 |      |      |
| Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in<br>Spanish  | 920   |      |      |
| Bogota Television Service in<br>Spanish       | 12450 |      |      |
| Bogota REUTER in<br>English                   |       | 5230 |      |
| Bogota REUTER in<br>Spanish                   |       | 670  |      |
| Bogota EL SIGLO in<br>Spanish                 |       |      | 3460 |
| Bogota EL TIEMPO in<br>Spanish                |       |      | 9680 |

## COSTA RICA

|                                      |      |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|------|--|--|
| San Jose Radio Impacto in<br>Spanish | 7880 |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|------|--|--|

- 2 -

|  | BROAD-<br>CASTS | PRESS<br>AGENCIES | PUBLI-<br>CATIONS |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| San Jose Radio Reloj in<br>Spanish               | 9540            |                   |                   |
| San Jose LA NACION in<br>Spanish                 |                 |                   | 5360              |
| San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in<br>Spanish           |                 |                   | 1220              |
| San Jose LA REPUBLICA in<br>Spanish              |                 |                   | 7750              |
| San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in<br>Spanish   |                 |                   | 0                 |
| San Jose LIBERTAD in<br>Spanish                  |                 |                   | 1130              |
| San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in<br>Spanish     |                 |                   | 0                 |
| CUBA   |                 |                   |                   |
| Havana International Service in<br>Quechua       | 640             |                   |                   |
| Havana International Service in<br>Spanish       | 46720           |                   |                   |
| Havana EFE in<br>Spanish                         |                 | 1300              |                   |
| Havana PRENSA LATINA in<br>English               |                 | 5340              |                   |
| Havana PRENSA LATINA in<br>Spanish               |                 | 18650             |                   |
| ECUADOR  |                 |                   |                   |
| Quito Radio Quito in<br>Spanish                  | 350             |                   |                   |
| Quito Voz de los Andes in<br>Spanish             | 4210            |                   |                   |
| Quito REUTER in<br>Spanish                       |                 | 350               |                   |
| EL SALVADOR                                      |                 |                   |                   |
| San Salvador Canal Doce Television in<br>Spanish | 3400            |                   |                   |
| San Salvador Channel 2 Television in<br>Spanish  | 3140            |                   |                   |
| San Salvador Domestic Service in<br>Spanish      | 1960            |                   |                   |
| San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in<br>Spanish   | 2320            |                   |                   |
| San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in<br>Spanish     | 3270            |                   |                   |
| San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in<br>Spanish      | 6090            |                   |                   |

- 3 -

|  | BROAD-<br>CASTS | PRESS<br>AGENCIES | PUBLI-<br>CATIONS |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| San Salvador Television Educativa in<br>Spanish            | 2010            |                   |                   |
| San Salvador SALPRESS in<br>Spanish                        |                 | 480               |                   |
| San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in<br>Spanish                   |                 |                   | 250               |
| San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in<br>Spanish                |                 |                   | 3460              |
| San Salvador EL MUNDO in<br>Spanish                        |                 |                   | 1290              |
| San Salvador EL TIEMPO in<br>Spanish                       |                 |                   | 0                 |
| San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in<br>Spanish               |                 |                   | 1970              |
| San Salvador PROCESO in<br>Spanish                         |                 |                   | 0                 |
| San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in<br>English                |                 |                   | 0                 |
| FRANCE   |                 |                   |                   |
| Paris AFP in<br>English                                    |                 | 530               |                   |
| Paris AFP in<br>Spanish                                    |                 | 36340             |                   |
| GERMANY  |                 |                   |                   |
| Hamburg DPA in<br>Spanish                                  |                 | 13530             |                   |
| GUATEMALA  |                 |                   |                   |
| Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras<br>Unidas in<br>Spanish  | 3140            |                   |                   |
| Guatemala City Domestic Service in<br>Spanish              | 870             |                   |                   |
| Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in<br>Spanish             | 1280            |                   |                   |
| Guatemala City Radio Television<br>Guatemala in<br>Spanish | 3200            |                   |                   |
| Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in<br>Spanish                    |                 |                   | 1090              |
| Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in<br>Spanish                  |                 |                   | 2350              |
| HONDURAS   |                 |                   |                   |
| Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in<br>Spanish               | 9580            |                   |                   |



- 4 -

|  | BROAD-<br>CASTS | PRESS<br>AGENCIES | PUBLI-<br>CATIONS |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in<br>Spanish                     | 4820            |                   |                   |
| Tegucigalpa Radio America in<br>Spanish                        | 7540            |                   |                   |
| Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in<br>Spanish                 | 950             |                   |                   |
| Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in<br>Spanish              | 6570            |                   |                   |
| San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in<br>Spanish                         |                 |                   | 1770              |
| San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in<br>Spanish                            |                 |                   | 2670              |
| Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in<br>Spanish                           |                 |                   | 1480              |
| Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in<br>Spanish                           |                 |                   | 940               |
| <b>MEXICO</b>  |                 |                   |                   |
| Mexico City XEW Television Network in<br>Spanish               | 1590            |                   |                   |
| Mexico City XHDF Television<br>Network in<br>Spanish           | 4140            |                   |                   |
| Mexico City CERIGUA in<br>Spanish                              |                 | 700               |                   |
| Mexico City REUTER in<br>English                               |                 | 5170              |                   |
| Mexico City EL DIA in<br>Spanish                               |                 |                   | 4050              |
| Mexico City EL NACIONAL in<br>Spanish                          |                 |                   | 270               |
| Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in<br>Spanish                         |                 |                   | 600               |
| Mexico City EXCELSIOR in<br>Spanish                            |                 |                   | 4210              |
| Mexico City UNOMASUNO in<br>Spanish                            |                 |                   | 1580              |
| <b>NICARAGUA</b>   |                 |                   |                   |
| Managua International Service in<br>Spanish                    | 3300            |                   |                   |
| Managua Domestic Service in<br>Spanish                         | 26510           |                   |                   |
| Managua Radio Noticias in<br>Spanish                           | 920             |                   |                   |
| Managua Radio Sandino in<br>Spanish                            | 36740           |                   |                   |
| Managua Sistema Sandinista Television<br>Network in<br>Spanish | 8340            |                   |                   |

- 5 -

|   | BROAD-<br>CASTS | PRESS<br>AGENCIES | PUBLI-<br>CATIONS |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish |                 | 1370              |                   |
| Managua ANN in Spanish                                |                 | 14260             |                   |
| Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish                      |                 | 2110              |                   |
| Managua BARRICADA in Spanish                          |                 |                   | 9140              |
| Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish                    |                 |                   | 2070              |
| Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish                          |                 |                   | 4630              |
| PANAMA  |                 |                   |                   |
| Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish        | 2470            |                   |                   |
| Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish               | 2310            |                   |                   |
| Panama City PANAVISION Television in Spanish          | 490             |                   |                   |
| Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish                  | 1220            |                   |                   |
| Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish            | 1360            |                   |                   |
| Panama City ACAN in Spanish                           |                 | 26670             |                   |
| Panama City CRITICA in Spanish                        |                 |                   | 1170              |
| Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish                 |                 |                   | 0                 |
| Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish                       |                 |                   | 1860              |
| Panama City EXTRA in Spanish                          |                 |                   | 3150              |
| Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish          |                 |                   | 2450              |
| Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish                      |                 |                   | 17830             |
| Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish         |                 |                   | 0                 |
| Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish                   |                 |                   | 2180              |
| Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish                       |                 |                   | 3910              |
| Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish                 |                 |                   | 490               |
| Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English                |                 |                   | 550               |

- 6 -

|   | BROAD-<br>CASTS | PRESS<br>AGENCIES | PUBLI-<br>CATIONS |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in<br>English         |                 |                   | 0                 |
| PERU<br>Lima REUTER in<br>English                     |                 | 230               |                   |
| SPAIN<br>Madrid EFE in<br>Spanish                     |                 | 32800             |                   |
| Madrid PRENSA LATINA in<br>Spanish                    |                 | 580               |                   |
| VENEZUELA<br>Caracas Television Service in<br>Spanish | 8270            |                   |                   |
| Caracas REUTER in<br>English                          |                 | 1980              |                   |
| Caracas REUTER in<br>Spanish                          |                 | 160               |                   |
| Caracas EL NACIONAL in<br>Spanish                     |                 |                   | 5430              |
| Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in<br>Spanish                    |                 |                   | 1340              |

## PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1985 -- ANNEX

TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES:

## ARGENTINA

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Buenos Aires REUTER in<br>English | 360 |
|-----------------------------------|-----|

## COLOMBIA

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Bogota Television Service in<br>Spanish | 12,450 |
| Bogota REUTER in<br>English             | 5,230  |
| Bogota REUTER in<br>Spanish             | 670    |

## CUBA

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Havana PRENSA LATINA in<br>Spanish | 18,650 |
| Havana EFE in<br>Spanish           | 1,300  |

## ECUADOR

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Quito REUTER in<br>Spanish | 350 |
|----------------------------|-----|

## EL SALVADOR

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| San Salvador SALPRESS in<br>Spanish | 480 |
|-------------------------------------|-----|

## GERMANY

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Hamburg DPA in<br>Spanish | 230 |
|---------------------------|-----|

## MEXICO

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Mexico City XEV Television Network in<br>Spanish  | 1,590 |
| Mexico City XHDF Television Network in<br>Spanish | 4,140 |
| Mexico City CERIGUA in<br>Spanish                 | 700   |
| Mexico City REUTER in<br>English                  | 5,170 |

## NICARAGUA

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Managua ANN in<br>Spanish                                | 14,260 |
| Managua ANN Diplomatic Information Service in<br>Spanish | 1,370  |
| Managua PRENSA LATINA in<br>Spanish                      | 2,110  |

-2-

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| PERU                          |              |
| Lima REUTER in                |              |
| English                       | 230          |
| <br>                          |              |
| SPAIN                         |              |
| Madrid EFE in                 |              |
| Spanish                       | 3,190        |
| Madrid PRENSA LATINA in       |              |
| Spanish                       | 580          |
| <br>                          |              |
| VENEZUELA                     |              |
| Caracas Television Service in |              |
| Spanish                       | 8,270        |
| Caracas REUTER in             |              |
| English                       | 1,980        |
| Caracas REUTER in             |              |
| Spanish                       | 160          |
| <br>                          |              |
| TOTAL FOR NOVEMBER 1985       | <hr/> 83,470 |